

RURAL DISTRICT OF WADEBRIDGE

A N N U A L R E P O R T

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the

Year Ending 31st December, 1965.

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF

Medical Officer of Health:

J. Reed, M.B., Ch.B., B.Sc., D.P.H.

Chief Public Health Inspector:

S.D. Crowle, M.P.H.I.A.

Additional Public Health Inspector:

D.J. Trebilcock, M.P.H.I.A.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the report of the Medical Officer of Health for the year 1965.

The general statistics show only a slight increase in population, but a marked increase of some 400 inhabited houses over 1964. This is merely due to the Married Quarters at St. Eval being included as individual properties instead of one 'Crown Property' for rating purposes. Births and deaths showed no significant variation. The causes of death had the same rough distribution, 75% occurring over the age of 65 years.

The principal environmental services of major concern to the authority are sewage disposal, water supplies and housing. Under the Water Act, 1945, the Council still have the responsibility of ensuring that the whole of the district is supplied with adequate and wholesome water. For all practical purposes this is now the prerogative of autonomous Water Boards. The precise function of the Local Authority and its public health officers is becoming less clear. The Board did its utmost to meet the increasing demand by extensions, whilst provisions are being made to expand the good sources at De Lank and Crowdy Marsh. In the meantime the more out of date systems must evidently continue to be used. The reservoir in Wadebridge is still uncovered and the water unchlorinated. Some progress has been made on the problem of fluoridation, the County Council now having accepted the administration in principle.

The construction of sewerage systems has been started for St. Issey and Little Petherick and portions of the St. Merryn Parish. Further administrative progress has been made on the proposals for Port Isaac, Blisland and St. Minver Lowlands. The rate at which new systems can be installed must necessarily be limited by the availability of capital and the Council's willingness to meet the interest charges by increased rate demands.

The building of new Council houses proceeded only slowly during 1965, but the development of a private estate at Egloshayle may help to relieve the pressure on the demand for Council accommodation. There are still many very sub-standard dwellings in occupation in the district, but with the limited resources available no serious attempt at their replacement can be contemplated.

This is the first full year in which the Public Health Department has existed as a separate entity, and I am sure the Council can now appreciate the value of having a department able to devote its time to the pressing problems of environmental hygiene in the district. I should like to express my appreciation to Mr. Crowle for his efforts and the pleasant way in which his work is accomplished. I should also like to thank the members and staff for their co-operation, always ungrudgingly given,

and beg to remain,

Your obedient servant,

JOHN REED.

I GENERAL STATISTICS

Registrar General's Estimate of Mid Year Population	14,710
Area in Acres	87,964
Number of Inhabited Houses	5,849
Rateable Value	£390,357
Product of Penny Rate	£1,582
Comparability Factors	Births 1.11
	Deaths 0.93

II VITAL STATISTICS

Births

Number of Live Births, 1965.

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	115	112	227
Illegitimate	11	3	14
	126	115	241
Birth Rate per 1,000 population	16.45		
Birth Rate England & Wales	18.1		
Comparable birth rate	18.25		

Stillbirths

Five female legitimate stillbirths were registered.

Deaths

Number of Deaths Registered, 1965.

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
	92	85	177
Crude death rate per 1,000 population	12.03		
Death rate England and Wales	11.5		
Comparable death rate	11.18		

Distribution of Deaths by Causes

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Heart disease	35	37	72
Cerebro vascular disease	9	10	19
Respiratory diseases	11	7	18
Cancer	11	17	28
Accident and Suicide	6	--	6
Other causes	20	14	34
	92	85	177

Distribution of Deaths by Age

Two male and one female deaths were recorded under the age of one month. Forty three deaths occurred below the age of 65 years and 86 occurred over 75 years.

III GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES

1. Hospitals. The St. Austell Maternity Unit recently opened was the only change in hospital services. The unit was available to a few (7) of the residents of the Rural District who live within reasonable distance of St. Austell. The major maternity provision is still in Redruth. No changes occurred with relation to the proposed improvements to Out Patient Services in Bodmin.

2. Laboratory Services. Public Health samples were submitted to the laboratory in the City Hospital, Truro.

3. Local Authority Services.

Ambulance Service. Patient transport is provided by Ambulances based on the Main Station at Bodmin. All vehicles are radio controlled. Additional cover is provided by units of the voluntary associations in Wadebridge and Padstow. The service was adequate during the year.

Home Nursing, Midwifery and Health Visiting. The district was fully staffed during 1965. Domiciliary confinements were conducted in 145 cases. Two full time health visitors were employed in general and tuberculosis work.

Immunisation and Vaccination. Protective inoculations against Diphtheria Whooping Cough and Tetanus and Smallpox were available through Infant Welfare Centres, family doctors and School Health Service. Tuberculosis protection was available through the Bodmin Chest Clinic and the County Secondary Schools. Yellow fever protection was supplied by the Health Area Office, Truro.

Home Help Service. Twenty five spare time helps were employed on forty two cases. The majority were elderly persons.

IV SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES

Water Supplies. With the exception of Lanhydrock all parishes in the rural district have a piped water supply to most dwellings. Some isolated farms and groups of houses still rely on private wells, boreholes or springs.

The North Cornwall Water Board's supplies were sampled on 143 occasions producing only 6 unsatisfactory bacteriological results. The worst of these related to the Wadebridge Town supply following the severe floods in July, illustrating the vulnerability of this service. The requests for adequate protection have still not been met.

Of 35 private sources sampled, five were bacteriologically unsafe. In these instances, boiling for drinking purposes was advised until more permanent remedies could be applied.

Houses supplied with piped water supply.

Parish	Estimated Population	Total Houses	Connected	Not Connected
St. Mabyn	488	180	122	58
St. Tudy	456	161	92	70
Egloshayle	362	125	50	76
Lanivet	1035	344	206	138
St. Breock	673	228	147	80
St. Issey	616	227	147	80
St. Ervan	292	120	80	40
St. Eval	775	431	382	48
Lanhydrock	166	50	-	50
Cardinham	430	161	48	113
Withiel	275	97	90	7
Wadebridge	3314	1196	1129	56
St. Minver Lowlands	1214	537	491	44
St. Minver Highlands	798	377	365	12
St. Endellion	1177	538	501	35
St. Kew	826	317	252	65
Blisland	484	173	73	100
Helland	213	73	34	39
St. Merryn	1156	514	463	51
Totals	14750	5849	4672	1162

Note:- Estimated population prepared on the basis of Electors Lists.

Sewerage and Sewage Disposal.

- (a) St. Merryn and St. Issey Sewerage. The construction of the above schemes commenced during the year, and it is hoped that the St. Issey scheme will be completed during 1966 and the St. Merryn scheme early in 1967.
- (b) St. Minver Lowlands and Blisland Sewerage. Full details of these two schemes were submitted to the County Council and Ministry for approval, and it is anticipated that local inquiries will be held regarding the proposals during 1966.
- (c) Port Isaac and St. Minver Highlands Sewerage. The Council's Consulting Engineers are preparing schemes for the sewerage of these areas, so that applications to the County Council and the Ministry for approval may be submitted.
- (d) The provision of sewerage will meet an urgent need in these parishes but further schemes are also required in many villages, as well as in Wadebridge itself.

Refuse Collection and Disposal.

Household refuse is collected from the roadside and disposed of at the Council owned refuse tip at Treworder, regarding which no complaints were recorded.

The large number of persons visiting this area during the summer months creates some problem in the collection of litter. If visitors are to be encouraged to come to this coastal area, then some regular service for the collection and clearing of litter from the beaches and open spaces ought to be provided.

Caravan and Camping Sites.

Total number of licensed sites as at 31st December, 1965:

Part holiday and part residential	..	..	..	..	2
Holiday sites (including single vans with seasonal licences)	..	..	..	..	31
Permanent sites (including single vans)	..	..	..	..	53
				Total	<u>86</u>

The demand for sites for touring tents and caravans was high during the summer months. Existing caravan sites attracted more tourists and campers than were intended, giving rise to some complaints. It would seem that the time is fast approaching when the control for tents should be similar to that for caravans.

Offices, Shops and Railways Premises Act, 1963.

Total number of premises now registered	..	..	..	189
Total number of premises to receive general inspection	..	..	..	114

Of the eighty-eight premises inspected during 1965, defects were found as follows:-

(a) Lack of washing facilities	..	..	..	..	16
(b) Insufficient sanitary accommodation	..	..	..	..	4
(c) Overcrowding	..	..	..	..	1
(d) Lack of first aid facilities	..	..	..	..	5

Public Health Inspection.

Summary of Visits

Meat Inspection	945
Improvement Grants	181
Shops and Cafes	158
Caravan and Camping Sites	188
House Inspections and Slum Clearance	134
Water Supplies and Samples	51
Drainage	258
Ice Cream, Milk and Other Foods	38
Factories	26
General	<u>117</u>
Total	<u>2,096</u>

V FOOD AND DRUGS

Food and Drugs Act, 1955.

(i) Number of Food Premises in the area:-

Green Grocers, Grocers and Fishmongers	80
Butchers	13
Cafes and Restaurants	31
Hotels	55
	<u>179</u>

(ii) Number of premises fitted to comply with Reg.16
(i.e. provision of wash hand basin) .. 171

(iii) Number of premises to which Reg.19
applies (i.e. requiring facilities for
washing food and equipment) 172

(iv) Number of premises complying
with Reg.19 169

(v) Number of premises registered to sell
ice-cream 85

Number of ice-cream samples taken .. 16

Samples of ice-cream taken were graded
as follows:-

	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>
Grade	11	3	1	1

At premises where samples in Grades 3 and 4 were found,
action was taken with the owner to improve methods of
storage and serving.

(vi) Number of premises registered to prepare
and sell sausages and cooked meats .. 16

(vii) Number of persons registered as
Distributors of Milk 53

Numerous inspections of shops and cafes were carried out during the year where
conditions were found to be generally satisfactory.

Slaughterhouses and Meat Inspection.

There are four licensed slaughterhouses in the area. Regular slaughtering takes
place in three of these, but there has been no slaughtering in the slaughterhouse
at St. Merryn since ownership changed in June, 1965.

All carcasses are inspected prior to removal from the slaughterhouse and stamped
when found satisfactory. The condition of the slaughterhouses remained generally
satisfactory throughout the year.

Some experimental sewer 'swabs' were taken from the drainage system at the
Abattoir to ascertain whether or not food poisoning organisms were present - no
such organisms were isolated.

CARCASSES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED

	Cattle (excl. cows)	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number Killed	1623	399	87	3673	9479
Number Inspected	1623	399	87	3673	9479
All diseases except cysticercosis & tuberculosis					
(a) Whole carcass condemned	7	7	21	78	40
(b) Carcase of which some part or organ was condemned	180	91	2	189	2045
Tuberculosis only					
(a) Whole carcase condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
(b) Carcase of which some part or organ was condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	190
Cysticercosis only					
(a) Whole carcase condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
(b) Carcase of which some part or organ was condemned	20	1	Nil	Nil	Nil
Gross weight of meat condemned	6942 lbs.	5222 lbs.	634 lbs.	5913 lbs.	10436 lbs.

VI HOUSING

(a) Fourteen houses were closed during the year by action under the Housing Acts in respect of individual unfit houses. Thirteen families consisting of twenty-one persons were re-housed from sub-standard housing accommodation. Three houses which had been closed as unfit for human habitation were renovated and the 'undertakings' not to occupy duly cancelled.

(b) Improvement Grants.

Standard grants approved during the year	38
Discretionary grants approved during the year	<u>4</u>
	<u>42</u>

Total amount of grants paid during the year:-

Standard grants on 34 dwellings	£5,159
Discretionary grants on 4 dwellings	£1,200

(c) Council Houses.

Total number of permanent houses owned by the Council at 31st December, 1965	702
Total number of prefabricated dwellings	28

The remainder of the seventy five units of accommodation at Port Isaac and Egloshayle were occupied during the year and work was commenced on the erection of twelve dwellings at St. Mabyn consisting of:-

4 Old Peoples Bungalows
4 3-bedroomed Houses
4 2-bedroomed Houses

Fourteen prefabricated bungalows at Port Isaac were demolished and tenants re-housed in permanent dwellings.

(d) Private Houses.

Sixty private dwellings were erected during the year.

(e) Common Lodging Houses.

There are no common lodging houses within the rural district.

VII FACTORIES

Number of Registered factories in area	.. ..	53
Number of Inspections	.. ..	26

Work commenced on the erection of a new bakery at Polmorla Road, Wadebridge, which will replace the existing bakery at Trenant Vale, Egloshayle, Wadebridge.

VIII PREVALENCE & CONTROL OF
INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Notified Infectious Diseases - 1965

Measles	185
Scarlet Fever	1
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	3
Influenzal Pneumonia	2

The only reported major outbreak was of measles. No serious complications were reported. In spite of a steady but slow decline in the number of known cases, pulmonary tuberculosis still continues to appear in the notifications.

The usual protective inoculations were available. The proportion of children born in 1964 who were protected against the following diseases were:-

Diphtheria, Whooping Cough, Tetanus	76%
Smallpox	35.3%
Poliomyelitis	75.8%

Some improvement is shown on the 1964 figures. The response to B.C.G. vaccination in County Secondary Schools continued to be very good. The number of positive reactors was small and no evidence of active tuberculosis was discovered.

FACTORIES ACT, 1961.TABLE OF INSPECTIONS - 1965

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written notices	Occupiers prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 & 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	6	1	Nil	Nil
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	47	25	3	Nil
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Total	53	26	3	Nil

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	-	-	-	-	-
Overcrowding (S.2)	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient	1	1	-	1	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	1	1	-	1	-
(c) Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	-	-	-	-	-
Total	2	2	-	2	-

No Outworkers were employed in the Rural District during 1965.